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Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A reinforced nonwoven fabric for fire blocking an article, comprising an open mesh scrim having a first side and a second side, the first side having crimped, heat-resistant organic fibers compressed thereon, the fibers held in a compressed state by a thermoplastic binder,
wherein when the fabric is exposed to heat or flame, the fabric is capable of increasing increases its thickness by at least three times.
2. (Currently Amended) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1 wherein the fabric is capable of increasing increases its thickness by at least five times when the fabric is exposed to heat or flame.
3. (Currently Amended) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1 wherein the fabric is capable of increasing increases its thickness by at least ten times when the fabric is exposed to heat or flame.
4. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 3 wherein the fibers are held in a compressed state by the combination of thermoplastic binder and thermoplastic open mesh scrim.
5. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1 further comprising the crimped, heat-resistant organic fibers compressed on the second side of the scrim, the fibers held in a compressed state by a thermoplastic binder.
6. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1 wherein the open mesh scrim comprises thermoplastic material.
7. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic binder is binder fiber.
8. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic binder comprises a combination of binder fiber and binder powder.

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9. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1, wherein the heat-resistant organic fiber is a para-aramid fiber.

10. (Original) The reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic binder is a combination of polyester binder powder and polyester binder fibers, and the open mesh scrim is made from the same or different polyester polymer.

11. (Original) A fire blocked article comprising the reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1.

12. (Original) A fire blocked mattress comprising the reinforced nonwoven fabric of claim 1.

Claims 13-19 (Cancelled).